

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I take this opportunity to thank Shri M. G. Radke of the Fisheries Dept., Nagpur for kindly identifying the fish.

BOTANY DEPT.,
INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE,
NAGPUR 1,
October 28, 1971.

N. D. KAMAT

REFERENCES

- KAMAT, N. D. (1966): Food of *Planispira nagporensis* Pfeiffer. *Curr. Sci.* 35(7):179. ——— (1969): Algae as food of *Barbus conchonioides* Ham. *Buch. ibid.* 38(2):50.

13. ON A NEW RECORD OF A MURREL, *CHANNA LEUCOPUNCTATUS* (SYKES) FROM RAJASTHAN

While collecting in lake Kailana (c. 13 km N. W. of Jodhpur, Rajasthan) a floating dead specimen of *Channa leucopunctatus*, measuring 647 mm in total length was collected. Subsequently, a fresh specimen of this species, measuring 560 mm in total length was collected from the same lake. Freshly caught specimens of this species have also been found in the local fish market. However, the occurrence of this species in Rajasthan is reported here for the first time.

Four species of *Channa*, namely, *C. punctatus* (Bloch), *C. marulius* (Hamilton), *C. striatus* (Bloch) and *C. gachua* (Hamilton) are reported earlier from Rajasthan (Datta & Majumdar 1970). Of these only *C. punctatus* and *C. marulius* have been recorded earlier from lake Kailana (Menon & Krishna 1958). I have also collected *C. punctatus* and *C. marulius* along with *C. leucopunctatus* from this lake.

Day (1889) gives the distribution of *C. leucopunctatus* as Coromandel and Western coasts of India, some of the rivers in the Deccan and Cauvery in Mysore, it is also said to be found in China. The present find, therefore, extends the known range of distribution of this species in India further north to Rajasthan. This species is not known to occur elsewhere in the northern and north eastern parts of India, along the Himalayas (Menon 1962). Thus the occurrence of this species in China presents an interesting example of discontinuous distribution.

C. leucopunctatus belongs to the family Channidae. The fishes of this family are air-breathing and are commonly called murrels. They

constitute one of the important groups of food fish.

This species resembles *C. marulius*, but can be easily distinguished from it by the lack of a black white-edged ocellus on the caudal fin and numerous white spots on the caudal and dorsal fins.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I wish to express my sincere thanks to Dr. A. P. Kapur, Director, Zoological Survey of India, Calcutta for providing with necessary facilities and to Dr. Asket Singh, Officer-in-Charge, Northern Regional Station, Zoological Survey of India, Dehra Dun for encouragement.

NORTHERN REGIONAL STATION,
ZOOLOGICAL SURVEY OF INDIA,
DEHRA DUN,

R. N. BHARGAVA

December 7, 1972.

REFERENCES

- DATTA, A. K. & MAJUMDAR, N. (1970): Fauna of Rajasthan, India. Part 7. Fishes. *Rec. Zool. Surv. India*, Calcutta, 62(1-2):63-100.
- DAY, F. (1889): The fauna of British India, including Ceylon and Burma. Fishes. Vol. 2. London (Taylor & Francis).
- MENON, A. G. K. (1962): A distributional list of fishes of the Himalayas. *J. Zool. Soc. India*, Calcutta, 14(1-2):23-32.
- MENON, C. B. & KRISHNA, D. (1958): A note on the fishes of Jodhpur (Rajasthan). (In Hindi). Vijnan Parishad Anusandhan Patrika, Allahabad (4):207-209.

14. A SPECIAL METHOD OF FISH TRAPPING IN RIVER GANGA AT VARANASI

(With a text-figure)

Fishing methods used in river Ganga have been described in some detail by several earlier workers. In the present communication, a method, locally known as *Koli*, which had not attracted the attention of earlier workers, and is extensively employed in Ganga at Varanasi, is described. The method is effective for catching *Chela* spp., *Aspidoparia* spp., *Puntius* spp., *Mugil* spp., *Mystus* spp., etc. along shallow, sandy banks where the current is sluggish. Two to six fishermen, two to four long bamboos (4m-5m), one or two short bamboos (2m-3m), four short "Y" shaped sticks (0.5m-1m), one big split bamboo or reed